



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1967

W. ALCOCK

M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health


K. H. MARSDEN

F.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector

*With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Department,
Watford.*



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B O R O U G H O F W A T F O R D

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATER SUPPLY COMMITTEE

1966 - 1967

Chairman

Councillor A. L. Robinson J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor C.F.W. Johnson

Members :

Alderman F. Mackenzie J.P. (Mayor)

Councillor L.C. Wright (Deputy Mayor)

Alderman J.R. Hicks O.B.E.

Alderman H.W.C. Lodder J.P.

Councillor C.T. Bell

Councillor G.R. Berry

Councillor C. Braybrooke

Councillor D.J. Coleshill

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Councillor J. Evett

Councillor R.S. Horner

Councillor J.S. Oliver

Councillor W.T.H. Price

Councillor J.R. Rourke

Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen

1967 - 1968

Chairman

Alderman J.S. Oliver

Vice-Chairman

Councillor W.T.H. Price

Members :

Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen J.P. (Mayor)

Alderman F. Mackenzie (Deputy Mayor)

Alderman A.G. Dillingham J.P.

Councillor R.G. Armstrong LL.B.

Councillor C.T. Bell

Councillor C. Braybrooke

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Dodd

Councillor D.A.L. Eccleshall L.S.I.A.

Councillor J. Evett

Councillor R.S. Horner

Councillor R.W. Jackson

Councillor R.A. Page E.R.D.

Councillor A.J. Quinn

Councillor J.R. Rourke

Councillor T.P. Tuckwell

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health :

William Alcock, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Public Health Department, Town Hall, Watford,
Phone Watford 26400

Deputy Medical Officer of Health :

John Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

K.H. Marsden, F.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

G.F. Willcox, M.A.P.H.I. 1, 3, 4, 5.

District Public Health Inspectors :

J.L. Willoughby, 1, 3, 4, 5.

Ronald Watkins, M.A.P.H.I., 2.

T.B. Rosamond, 1, 3, 4.

Joseph Brown, M.A.P.H.I., 1, 3, 5.

D.C. Cahill, M.A.P.H.I., 1, 3, 5.

Senior Meat Inspector :

David Mitchell (resigned 7th May 1967), 1. 3.

J.L. Mackenzie, 1. 3. 6. (from 10th July 1967)

Authorised Meat Inspectors :

John O'Brien (appointed 28th August 1967)

Brian Christie

Student Public Health Inspectors :

G.J.A. Woolfe

Simon Bissell

Chief Clerk :

Mary Sherlock

Senior Clerk :

Marion Johnson

Clerks :

Doreen Roberts

Mavis Tilbury

Geraldine Pugh

1. Certificate, Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors Joint Board.
2. Diploma, Public Health Inspectors Examination Board.
3. Meat and Other Foods Certificate, Royal Society of Health.
4. Certificate of Sanitary Science, Royal Society of Health.
5. Diploma in Smoke Inspection, Royal Society of Health.
6. Higher Certificate of the Institute of Meat.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
WATFORD.

September, 1968.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1967.

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS

The birth rate has fallen slightly for the second consecutive year and this is in accordance with the national trend, though to a less marked degree.

The infant mortality rate has increased substantially. The cause for this increase (from 18.7 in 1966 to 23.6 in 1967) has naturally been the subject of careful investigation. It is due to an abnormally high incidence of premature births included in which are an unusual number of twin births. Prematurity (by definition a birth weight of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less) brings with it special hazards and many of these premature children, in fact, survived no more than a few hours. It is not surprising, therefore, that the peri-natal mortality rate has also risen.

There were no maternal deaths.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The incidence of the common infectious diseases was again low, reflecting the trend of recent years.

With the rapid strides now being made in the study of the virus diseases, there can be little doubt that the next few years will see a marked decline in diseases of viral origin.

Measles vaccines have now passed their practical tests and are now in use. There are encouraging reports of vaccines against German Measles and I have no doubt that, before long, effective vaccines against influenza, and perhaps the common cold, may be available. We cannot, however, afford to be complacent. Viruses can so change their antigenic structure as to render vaccines against them largely ineffective, and indeed it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that new viruses may appear. The disease known as "Sleeping Sickness" will be within living recollection of many. This disease appeared like a bolt from the blue in about 1918 and continued to be a serious menace until the early 1930s when it apparently died out completely. Whence did it come? Where did it go?

The number of deaths from lung cancer again rose during the year and the lung cancer death rate for Watford is substantially higher than for England and Wales. It seems that nothing we do by way of propaganda has had the slightest effect in influencing the remorseless toll in human lives exacted by this disease. Only amongst members of the medical profession has there been any substantial decline in lung cancer deaths and there can be little doubt that this is related to the fact that cigarette smoking amongst doctors has greatly declined in the last few years.

Deaths from other forms of cancer remain very steady.

FLUORIDATION

By May 1967, fluoridation of the public water supply had been in operation for 11 years. As the years pass, evidence of the beneficial effect of this measure increases, especially among those children who have consumed fluoridated water all their lives. With this mounting evidence, which parents can see for themselves, there has been a gradual decline in opposition to the measure. Moreover, not one single case of harmful effect has come to light since it was introduced.

This is my fifteenth and the last Annual Report I shall submit to the Council.

I look back with a considerable measure of satisfaction in surveying the fifteen years during which I have served the Authority; they have been fruitful years.

The post of Borough Medical Officer of Health combined as it is with that of County Divisional Medical Officer would not normally be expected to be, at all times, an easy post to occupy, but, in fact, the generous measure of goodwill shown to me on all sides has made my task a relatively easy one. I also count myself extremely fortunate in having had the co-operation of such a loyal, hard-working and friendly staff in my own department, and the help and encouragement which has always been forthcoming from my colleagues in other departments.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Members of the Council and especially to Members of the Health Committee for their generous support and encouragement during my term of office.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

W. ALCOCK

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

		<u>WATFORD</u>		<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
		<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1967</u>
Area in Acres		5,275	5,275	5,275
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year		76,350	76,310	48,390,800
Number of inhabited dwellings (end of year) according to rate books		24,867	25,224	-
Rateable Value	£	5,850,838	6,205,747	-
Sum represented by a penny rate	£	24,220	25,200	
Live Births : Number		1,499	1,485	832,000
Rate per 1,000 population		19.6	19.5	17.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		5.9	7.9	-
Stillbirths : Number		18	26	12,500
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths		11.9	17.2	14.8
Total live and stillbirths		1,517	1,511	844,500
Infant deaths (deaths under one year)		28	35	15,267
Infant Mortality rates :				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		18.7	23.6	18.3
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		19.1	21.9	-
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		11.4	42.4	-
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)		12.0	20.2	12.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)		10.0	18.9	10.8
Peri-natal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)		21.8	35.7	25.4
Maternal mortality (including abortions) :				
Number of deaths		1	-	170
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths		0.70	0.00	0.20
Deaths : Number		882	869	542,519
Rate per 1,000 population		11.6	11.4	11.2

POPULATION

Watford's population showed a decrease of 40 during the year from 76,350 to 76,310 according to the Registrar General's estimate. Births were 1,485 as compared with 1,499 for the previous year and deaths 869 as compared with 882, so that the natural increase of births over deaths was 616 as compared with the estimated decrease of 40. Emigration must, therefore, have amounted to 656. There is a considerable amount of emigration from Watford. Since 1961 births have totalled 10,057 and deaths 6,062, a natural increase of 3,965 although the population has increased in the same period only from 75,000 to 76,310, an increase of 1,310. Emigration during the same period, therefore, has totalled 2,655. By contrast, between 1951 and 1960 births totalled 10,713 and deaths 8,246, a natural increase of 2,467 and the population increased in the same period from 72,700 to 75,000, an increase of 2,300. There follows a table showing the balance of emigration and immigration year by year since 1951 :-

BALANCE OF EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION, 1951 - 1967

	Population	Decrease	Increase	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Emigration	Immigration
1950	74,380							
1951	72,700	1,680		1,017	827	190	1,870	
1952	73,200		500	1,033	819	214		286
1953	72,610	590		966	864	102	692	
1954	72,490	120		1,018	758	260	380	
1955	72,420	70		1,045	836	209	279	
1956	72,520		100	1,079	807	272	172	
1957	73,050		530	1,078	800	278		252
1958	73,350		300	1,088	884	204		96
1959	73,780		430	1,157	870	287		143
1960	74,340		560	1,232	781	451		109
1961	75,000		660	1,329	865	464		196
1962	75,540		540	1,353	859	494		46
1963	75,780		240	1,399	909	490	250	
1964	76,340		560	1,474	845	629	69	
1965	76,470		130	1,518	833	685	555	
1966	76,350	120		1,499	882	617	737	
1967	76,310	40		1,485	869	616	656	
		2,620	4,550	20,770	14,308	6,462	5,660	1,128

BIRTHS, STILLBIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	717	650	1,367
Illegitimate	61	57	118
Total	778	707	1,485

Stillbirths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	13	10	23
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Total	15	11	26

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	16	14	30
Illegitimate	-	5	5
Total	16	19	35

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	14	11	25
Illegitimate	-	5	5
Total	14	16	30

Deaths of Infants under One Week of Age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	13	10	23
Illegitimate	-	5	5
Total	13	15	28

BIRTHS

Watford's births for the year were 1,485 as compared with 1,499 for the previous year and representing a rate of 19.5, as compared with 19.6. The area comparability factor by which Watford's rate has to be multiplied to make it comparable with that for England and Wales is 1.11 which indicates that at the child-bearing ages Watford has considerably less population proportionately than England and Wales. When multiplied by this factor, Watford's birth rate is 21.6 as compared with a provisional birth rate for England and Wales for 1967 of 17.2.

STILLBIRTHS

Watford's still births for the year were 26 as compared with 18 for the previous year and representing a rate of 17.2 as compared with 11.9. The provisional still birth rate for England and Wales for 1967 is 14.8.

INFANT DEATHS

Watford's infant deaths for the year were 35 as compared with 28 for the previous year and representing a rate of 23.6 as compared with 18.7. The provisional infant death rate for England and Wales for 1967 is 18.3.

DISCUSSION OF STILLBIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS

The 35 infant deaths listed according to the International Classification of Diseases and divided by sex and into Under 1 week, 1 - 4 weeks and 1 - 12 months are shown in the following table :-

1967

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS

	Under 1 week		1 - 4 weeks		1 - 12 months		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cerebral spastic infantile paralysis					1		1	
Broncho-pneumonia						1		1
Primary atypical pneumonia					1	1	1	1
Monstrosity		3						3
Spina bifida and meningocele		1				1		2
Congenital malformation of circulatory system	1						1	
Congenital malformation of digestive system				1				1
Congenital malformation of genito-urinary system			1				1	
Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	1	1					1	1
Immaturity unqualified	11	10					11	10
	13	15	1	1	2	3	16	19

DEATHS

Watford's deaths for the year were 869 as compared with 882 for the previous year and representing a rate of 11.4 as compared with 11.6. The area comparability factor by which Watford's rate has to be multiplied to make it comparable with that for England and Wales is 0.95, which indicates that at the older ages Watford has rather more population proportionately than England and Wales. When multiplied by this factor Watford's death rate is 10.8 as compared with a provisional death rate for England and Wales for 1967 of 11.2.

DISCUSSION OF DEATHS

The 869 deaths listed according to the abbreviated list of the International Classification of Diseases, and divided by sex, and by age into eleven age groups, are shown in the following table. It will be seen that the main causes of death are cancer, which was responsible for 187 deaths or 21.5% of the total, coronary heart disease, which was responsible for 174 deaths, or 20.0% of the total, vascular lesions of the nervous system, which were responsible for 148 deaths, or 17.0% of the total, and heart disease other than coronary and hypertensive heart disease, which was responsible for 62 deaths, or 7.2% of the total. These four causes were responsible for 571 deaths or 65.7% of the total.

Lung cancer is almost entirely preventable by not taking up smoking and very considerably reduced by giving it up. Cancer of the neck of the womb can be prevented by regular microscopic examination of smears of mucosal tissue obtained by scraping, followed by the appropriate treatment where these show the presence of a precancerous state, as this form of cancer remains in a precancerous state for a number of years. A clinic for the taking of smears has now been set up by the Local Health Authority but the shortage of technicians employed by the Regional Hospital Board to read these smears is such that the waiting list has increased by a month for every month that the clinic has been open.

Coronary heart disease and vascular lesions of the nervous system all come under the general category of degenerative vascular disease, and evidence is steadily accumulating that the increase in degenerative vascular disease in privileged western communities is due to excess consumption of carbohydrate and animal and dairy fat.

Heart disease other than coronary and hypertensive heart disease consists largely of degenerative heart disease with rheumatic heart disease as the next most important component. Most of degenerative heart disease is old age (40 of the 62 deaths from other heart disease or 64.5% were in persons aged 75 and over) and nothing can be done about preventing old age. However, the Registrar General frowns on old age as a cause of death on a death certificate and the importance of heart disease other than coronary disease is exaggerated as a result. Rheumatic heart disease is prevented by permanent prophylactic treatment with penicillin or sulphonamide of all who have had rheumatic fever.

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks		Age in years									
			4 weeks and under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+		
Tuberculosis, respiratory	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuberculosis, other	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Syphilitic disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping cough	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal infections	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	6	
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	22	15	8	2	
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks		Age in years									
			1 year	and under	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	7	6	4	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	3	
	M	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	10	12	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	F	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	12	17	
	M	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	F	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	
	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Diabetes	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	
	M	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	11	13	34	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	F	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	14	66	
	M	105	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	35	33	27	
Coronary disease, angina	F	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7	22	37	
	M	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	3	
Hypertension with heart disease	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	
	M	25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	4	13	
Other heart disease	F	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	27	
	M	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	4	5	
Other circulatory disease	F	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	6	12	
	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Influenza	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	M	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	11	
Pneumonia	F	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	14	
	M	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	5	
Bronchitis	F	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	7	

Cause of death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years									
					1- 1 year	5- 5 years	15- 15 years	25- 25 years	35- 35 years	45- 45 years	55- 55 years	65- 65 years	75+ 75+	
Other diseases of respiratory system	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congenital malformations	M	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	9	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	31	12	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	6	5	
	F	47	11	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	5	25	
Motor Vehicle accidents	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	
All other accidents	M	12	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	2	6	
	F	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	8	
Suicide	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Homicide and operations of war	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total of all causes	M	434	14	2	2	2	3	1	10	26	108	118	148	
	F	435	16	3	-	1	2	2	8	19	42	98	244	

BIRTHS, STILLBIRTHS, INFANT DEATHS, MATERNAL DEATHS AND DEATHS

WATFORD AND ENGLAND AND WALES 1950 - 67

The following table may be of interest as permitting a comparison to be made of these statistics between Watford and England and Wales. The birth rate for England and Wales fell at the beginning of the period and then rose again, whereas that for Watford rose steadily over the period, so that at the end of the period the rate for Watford, which had been lower than that for England and Wales at the beginning of the period, was now higher.

The maternal death rate for England and Wales fell steadily over the period but in the case of Watford the numbers are too small to be of any significance. The death rate for both England and Wales and Watford remained almost stationary over the period, but this figure represents an increase in the expectation of life of women accompanied by a decrease in the expectation of life of men, due largely to the great increase in the number of deaths from lung cancer.

	Births			Stillbirths			Infant Deaths			Maternal Deaths			Deaths		
	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W
	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate
1950	1038	13.9	15.9	21	19.8	22.6	24	23.1	29.6	0	0.00	0.86	802	10.8	11.6
1951	1017	14.0	15.5	30	28.7	23.0	19	18.7	29.7	0	0.00	0.75	827	11.4	12.5
1952	1033	14.1	15.3	26	24.6	22.7	26	25.2	27.6	0	0.00	0.67	819	11.1	11.3
1953	966	13.3	15.5	18	18.6	22.4	25	25.9	26.8	3	3.05	0.71	864	11.9	11.4
1954	1018	14.0	15.2	21	20.2	23.5	19	18.7	25.4	3	2.89	0.65	758	10.5	11.3
1955	1045	14.4	15.0	13	12.3	23.2	14	13.4	24.9	0	0.00	0.60	836	11.5	11.7
1956	1079	14.9	15.7	30	27.1	22.9	15	13.9	23.7	0	0.00	0.52	807	11.1	11.7
1957	1078	14.8	16.1	16	14.6	22.5	29	26.9	23.1	0	0.00	0.45	800	11.0	11.5
1958	1088	14.8	16.4	27	24.2	21.5	20	18.4	22.5	0	0.00	0.43	884	12.1	11.7
1959	1157	15.7	16.5	25	21.2	20.8	9	7.8	22.2	0	0.00	0.38	870	11.8	11.6
1960	1232	16.6	17.2	22	17.5	19.8	19	15.2	21.8	0	0.00	0.39	781	10.5	11.5
1961	1329	17.7	17.6	22	16.3	19.0	19	14.3	21.4	4	2.96	0.34	865	11.5	11.9
1962	1353	17.9	18.0	24	17.4	18.1	24	17.6	21.7	0	0.00	0.35	859	11.4	11.9
1963	1399	18.5	18.2	23	16.2	17.2	24	17.2	21.1	1	0.70	0.28	909	12.0	12.2
1964	1474	19.3	18.5	20	13.4	16.3	29	19.7	19.9	0	0.00	0.26	845	11.1	11.3
1965	1518	19.9	18.1	24	15.6	15.8	30	19.8	19.0	0	0.00	0.25	833	10.9	11.5
1966	1499	19.6	17.7	18	11.9	15.3	28	18.7	19.0	1	0.70	0.26	882	11.6	11.7
1967	1485	19.5	17.2	26	17.2	14.8	35	23.6	18.3	0	0.00	0.20	869	11.4	11.2

LUNG CANCER, OTHER CANCER, CEREBRO-VASCULAR DISEASE,
CARDIO VASCULAR DISEASE AND OTHER CARDIAC DISEASE

WATFORD AND ENGLAND AND WALES 1950 - 67

The following table may be of interest as permitting a comparison to be made for these statistics between Watford and England and Wales. The lung cancer death rate for both England and Wales and Watford rose steadily over the period and was twice as high at the end of the period as it had been at the beginning. On the other hand, the death rate for other cancer for both England and Wales and Watford remained remarkably steady over the period. If cancer is due to hereditary susceptibility and is activated by environmental influences, it is suggested that the environmental influences have remained constant for other cancer but have changed for lung cancer and the most obvious influence is increased consumption of tobacco. The chance of dying of other cancer is one in six. The chance of lung cancer is one in twenty. Almost all of the deaths from lung cancer occur among the part of the population that smokes a medium or large amount. So while the chance of dying of all cancer among the part of the population that does not smoke, or that smokes a small amount, is one in six, the chance among the part of the population that smokes a medium or a large amount is one in four. The death rate for cerebro vascular disease for both England and Wales and Watford remained almost stationary over the period. The death rate for cardio vascular disease for both England and Wales and Watford rose steadily over the period, but the death rate for other cardiac disease for both England and Wales and Watford fell steadily over the period, and taking the two together for both England and Wales and Watford they remained almost stationary over the period. There is no obvious reason why the death rate for other cardiac diseases should have fallen and it is suggested that the increase in the death rate for cardio vascular disease is as much a change in the practice of diagnosis as a true increase, deaths which used to be certified as due to myocardial degeneration now being certified as due to coronary disease.

	Lung Cancer			Other Cancer			Cerebro-Vascular Disease			Cardio-Vascular Disease			Other Cardiac Disease		
	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W	Watford		E & W
	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate	No.	Rate	Rate
1950	26	0.35	0.28	122	1.64	1.67	106	1.43	1.48	86	1.16	1.25	102	1.37	2.21
1951	20	0.28	0.30	103	1.42	1.66	112	1.54	1.56	89	1.22	1.33	123	1.69	2.34
1952	27	0.37	0.32	118	1.61	1.67	97	1.33	1.58	107	1.46	1.40	153	2.09	2.00
1953	26	0.36	0.34	112	1.54	1.65	106	1.46	1.54	124	1.71	1.42	134	1.85	1.93
1954	19	0.26	0.37	121	1.67	1.67	97	1.34	1.63	116	1.60	1.53	130	1.79	1.87
1955	33	0.46	0.39	116	1.60	1.67	116	1.60	1.67	138	1.91	1.61	138	1.91	1.88
1956	21	0.29	0.41	125	1.72	1.67	126	1.74	1.67	126	1.74	1.70	132	1.82	1.82
1957	37	0.50	0.42	138	1.88	1.67	91	1.24	1.64	114	1.55	1.72	124	1.69	1.70
1958	42	0.57	0.44	146	1.99	1.68	101	1.46	1.69	138	1.88	1.86	123	1.68	1.72
1959	35	0.47	0.46	140	1.90	1.68	113	1.53	1.66	128	1.73	1.87	91	1.23	1.58
1960	36	0.48	0.48	94	1.26	1.68	135	1.82	1.67	140	1.88	2.01	87	1.17	1.55
1961	50	0.67	0.49	127	1.69	1.67	130	1.73	1.67	172	2.29	2.07	91	1.21	1.57
1962	43	0.57	0.51	135	1.79	1.67	103	1.36	1.68	166	2.20	2.19	96	1.27	1.50
1963	49	0.65	0.52	117	1.54	1.66	119	1.57	1.71	196	2.59	2.29	87	1.15	1.47
1964	38	0.50	0.54	137	1.80	1.67	112	1.47	1.56	186	2.44	2.24	59	0.77	1.25
1965	48	0.63	0.55	140	1.83	1.67	93	1.22	1.64	164	2.15	2.38	71	0.93	1.23
1966	50	0.65	0.56	128	1.68	1.69	140	1.83	1.64	172	2.25	2.39	62	0.81	1.23
1967	55	0.72	0.58	132	1.73	1.69	148	1.94	1.59	174	2.28	2.38	62	0.81	1.12

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES UNDER PART III NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946

Section 22	Care of Mothers and Young Children
Section 23	Midwifery
Section 24	Health Visiting
Section 25	Home Nursing
Section 26	Vaccination and Immunisation
Section 28	Prevention of Illness Care and After Care
Section 29	Domestic Help
Section 51	Mental Health

The provision of these services in Watford is the responsibility of Hertfordshire County Council as Local Health Authority. The Medical Officer of Health of Watford, in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer for Hertfordshire County Council for South-West Hertfordshire, is responsible for the day-to-day administration of these services for Watford, and for Watford Rural District and Rickmansworth, Bushey and Chorleywood Urban District.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Scarlet Fever

23 persons were notified as suffering from scarlet fever during the year. Scarlet fever today is a mild illness and need give rise to no anxiety but it is not certain that the complications of scarlet fever, particularly rheumatic fever, with its sequel of rheumatic heart disease, and nephritis, are as diminished in importance as is the illness itself. It is still necessary to obtain medical advice in cases of scarlet fever and to carry out this advice.

Whooping Cough

38 persons were notified as suffering from whooping cough during the year. Whooping cough is the main cause of bronchiectasis (lung abscess) and one of the causes of bronchitis. It is preventable by immunisation and now that immunisation against whooping cough is given to babies along with immunisation against diphtheria it is hoped that the number of notifications will fall.

Measles

1,068 persons were notified as suffering from measles during the year. Almost every child gets measles, usually before he goes to school, and as it is not a serious condition it is impossible to see why it is notifiable. In contrast rheumatic fever, which is the cause of rheumatic heart disease, is notifiable although 5,728 people died of rheumatic heart disease in England and Wales in 1967.

Dysentery

7 persons were notified as suffering from dysentery during the year.

Acute Pneumonia

8 persons were notified as suffering from acute pneumonia during the year.

Acute Encephalitis

1 person was notified as suffering from acute encephalitis during the year.

Erysipelas

4 persons were notified as suffering from erysipelas during the year.

Food Poisoning

10 persons were notified as suffering from food poisoning during the year.

Tuberculosis

33 persons were notified as suffering from tuberculosis during the year.

Infectious Hepatitis

1 person was notified as suffering from infectious hepatitis during the year.

Meningoccal Infections, Acute Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever,
Paratyphoid Fever, Smallpox, Puerperal Pyrexia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Anthrax

No notifications were received during the year.

There follows a table of infectious and other notifiable diseases
notified during the year.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles (excluding Rubella)		Dysentery		Meningo-coccal infection		Acute poliomyelitis			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic	
											M	F	M	F
Under 1 year			2	1	19	19								
1 year					57	55								
2 years	1		5	3	76	77	1							
3 years	1	1	4	4	80	82								
4 years	2	1	2	5	95	97								
5 - 9 years	5	9	5	7	197	199								
10 - 14 years		1			7	5								
15 - 24 years	2				2	1								
25 and over							3	2						
Age unknown														
TOTAL	11	12	18	20	533	535	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Acute Pneumonia		Acute encephalitis				Typhoid Fever		Para - Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food poisoning		Smallpox	
			Infective		Post- infectious											
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years																
5 - 14 years	1	1			1									4		
15 - 44 years	2										1	2		1		
45 - 64 years		2										1				
65 and over		2											1			
Age unknown																
TOTAL	3	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	9	-	-

Tuberculosis

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 year	-	2	-	-	-	-
2 - 4 years	1	2	-	-	-	-
5 - 9 years	1	2	1	-	-	-
10 - 14 years	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 19 years	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24 years	2	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 34 years	4	2	-	1	1	-
35 - 44 years	2	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	3	1	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	2	1	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	1	-	-	-	-	-
75 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	10	1	2	1	-

Other Notifiable diseases

Original		Final	
M	F	M	F
Puerperal pyrexia			
-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia neonatorum			
-	-	-	-
Anthrax			
-	-	-	-
Infectious Hepatitis			
-	1	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS 1950 - 67

The following table may be of interest as permitting a review of the improvement in tuberculosis statistics over the period. All the statistics have improved, but some have improved more than others, and the difference in the experience of the sexes is also shown. The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis dropped throughout the period, and was considerably lower in women than in men. On the other hand the number of notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis also dropped throughout the period, but was rather lower in men than in women. It is suggested that the excess in the number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis in men is due to their greater consumption of tobacco. The smaller excess in the smaller number of notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in women is not considered significant. The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis dropped throughout the period, and was lower in women than in men. On the other hand, the number of deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis also dropped throughout the period, but was the same in both sexes. Not only was the number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in men greater than the number in women throughout the period, but also a larger proportion of men notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis died from the disease than was the case in women. It is suggested that the excesses in the number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in men, and in the number of deaths in relation to the number of notifications in men, are due to their greater consumption of tobacco.

TUBERCULOSIS

Years 1950 - 67

Notifications											Deaths					
Year	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total	Rate	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total	Rate
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total			Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
1950	31	35	66	7	5	12	78	1.05	9	7	16		2	2	18	0.24
1951	59	38	97	4	5	9	106	1.46	7	7	14	1	1	2	16	0.22
1952	46	27	73	5	6	11	84	1.15	7	2	9	2		2	11	0.15
1953	41	38	79		2	2	81	1.12	12		12				12	0.17
1954	41	36	77	3	2	5	82	1.13	1	3	4				4	0.05
1955	48	26	74	5	2	7	81	1.12	5	1	6	1		1	7	0.10
1956	32	22	54	2	4	6	60	0.83	10	3	13	1	2	3	16	0.22
1957	60	32	92	2	4	6	98	1.34	6	2	8				8	0.10
1958	38	34	72	2	6	8	80	1.09	2		2				2	0.03
1959	47	28	75	2	3	5	80	1.08	1	2	3				3	0.04
1960	23	14	37	5	4	9	46	0.62	5	1	6	1		1	7	0.09
1961	20	18	38	5	1	6	44	0.59	4	2	6				6	0.08
1962	28	24	52		4	4	56	0.69	1		1				1	0.01
1963	27	22	49		2	2	51	0.67	1	2	3				3	0.04
1964	21	8	29	2	2	4	33	0.43	1	1	2		1	1	3	0.04
1965	20	11	31	2	1	3	34	0.44	3	2	5				5	0.07
1966	14	9	23		1	1	24	0.30	2	1	3				3	0.04
1967	19	10	29	2	2	4	33	0.43	2		2				2	0.03

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Report on the Water Supply

Mr. J.R. Collins, C.Eng., M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., M.R.S.H., the Borough Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information :-

1. The supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity through the year.
2. 1,312 million gallons were supplied during the year averaging 3.594 million gallons per day and the supply on the maximum day (7th July, 1967) was 4,324 million gallons.
3. The population supplied was approximately 76,165 and the average consumption for domestic, trade and industrial purposes was 47.18 gallons per head per day. 201 new supplies were connected during the year.
4. All water going into supply was softened to approximately 155 parts per million.
5. Fluoridation was continued at both pumping stations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The fluoride content of the supply was tested some 2,500 times and these tests, together with check samples taken independently by the Medical Officer of Health and tested by the Laboratory of the Government Chemist, confirmed that the treatment was maintained at the correct level of 1 part per million.
6. Sterilisation by super-chlorination and de-chlorination on all water supplied was carried out on the supplies from both pumping stations. Automatic sterilisation plant at The Grove Waterworks adjusts and records the sterilisation processes and gives an alarm if the pre-determined conditions are not maintained. Chlorine residual tests were taken at hourly intervals from the Watford Fields Pumping Plant, at 4 hourly intervals on the Merryhill Reservoir supply, twice daily from the Paddock Road Reservoir supply, and twice daily from the Abbots Langley Reservoir supply.
7. 172 bacteriological analyses have been made of the water drawn from various parts of the supply system, and of the raw and untreated water from both pumping stations and have indicated that the supply has at all times been of a satisfactory bacteriological quality.
8. Chemical analyses also indicated satisfactory chemical quality of the untreated and treated water. There was no plumbo-solvency.

9. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings within the water supply area revealed the following situation :

Rear of 227 Horseshoe Lane	Two caravans
Rear of 289 Sheepcot Lane	Three caravans
Rear of 275 Sheepcot Lane	One caravan
Rear of 106 High Road, Leavesden	Two caravans
Rear of 82 High Road, Leavesden	One caravan (vacant)
"Rosebarn", Lady Capel's Wharf, Hempstead Road	One caravan

10. There was one permanent dwelling within the water supply area without a main water supply piped into the premises. This was "Rosevilla", North Orbital Road, where a standpipe and flush W.C. were available.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1. INTRODUCTION

There is nothing dramatic to report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors during 1967. There was only one change in the staff of inspectors and this stability enabled us to adhere fairly closely to our programme of work for the year. Early in the year the specialist public health meat inspector resigned his appointment. The Council were pleased to put in charge of meat inspection a second public health inspector who had originally been appointed as an authorised meat inspector and the post was redesignated "Senior Meat Inspector".

When the Council, on financial grounds, decided not to proceed with the making of new smoke control orders during the year, more time and attention was given to the establishment of housing improvement areas. Progress on the improvement of houses in the four areas which the Council has declared since 1964 has been very slow but towards the end of the year the prospect of work proceeding on a considerable number of rented houses could clearly be seen. Many of these will be improved by the Council in default of the owners or at their request.

HOUSING

2. CLEARANCE OF UNFIT HOUSES

The Council's slum clearance campaign has been completed. The following individual unfit houses were demolished during the year :

"The Glen", North Orbital Road
249 High Street

Two houses on which Closing Orders had been made, 76 Pinner Road and 54 Merton Road, were reconstructed and improved and the Closing Orders were determined.

3. REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

During recent years many rented houses in Watford have been sold for owner/occupation. The number of privately owned rented dwellings remaining in the Borough is about 3,500. Their general standard of maintenance is good and there is now less need for the Council to enforce repairs than there has ever been. This does not, of course, mean that everyone is living in a satisfactory dwelling for there are many houses in the Borough that were built before 1910 to the standards then existing.

Apart from the abatement of overcrowding, which is linked with the construction of new dwellings, the main housing task in Watford is the modernisation of houses lacking the standard amenities; according to the 1961 census there are about 3,300 of these. The Council, therefore, welcomed powers they were given in the Housing Act 1964 to enforce the improvement of rented houses and the first three improvement areas were declared in 1965 and 1966. These contain 507 houses of which 227 were rented; 196 of the rented and 124 of the owner/occupied houses were in need of improvement.

The fourth improvement area was declared in September 1967 and it forms an extension of the second and third areas. Of the 431 dwellings in this area 106 are rented. It was found that 118 owner/occupied houses and 66 rented houses were in need of improvement.

In addition to the statutory proceedings against the owners of the rented houses the Council have endeavoured with some success to persuade the owner/occupiers of unimproved houses to take advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme.

The progress which is being made in these areas is shown in Table IV in the Appendix.

Good progress has been made on the modernisation of the 1,729 Council owned houses, which were built more than thirty years ago. The improvement works have been completed on 432 and, at the end of the year, work was in progress on another 456 houses.

Improvement of houses outside Improvement Areas

The tenants of four houses made representations to the Council to exercise their powers under the provisions of Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 to enforce the owners to improve the houses. The necessary enforcement proceedings were taken in all cases.

4. OVERCROWDING AND HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS

As a town in which there is full employment there is a constant pressure on the available housing accommodation in Watford. One result of this has been an increase in the number of houses occupied by members of more than one family and it is in these houses that overcrowding is most often found; usually immigrants are involved.

Four directions under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964 were made during the year and four notices were served under Section 15 requiring additional amenities in houses. At the end of the year there were in total 70 houses in multi-occupation where the Council had taken action to limit the number of persons living or sleeping in the houses. Adequate supervision of these houses can only be maintained by evening inspection visits.

5. CARAVANS

By the end of the year the number of residential caravans within the Borough had been reduced to 8 on 5 licensed sites.

6. FOOD HYGIENE

The coming into force of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966 on the 1st January replaced general provisions for the protection of food by detailed requirements relating to its handling and sale in the open air. Food on stalls must now be screened and covered where necessary and stalls, mobile shops and some delivery vehicles must be provided with washing facilities both for equipment and persons who are handling the food. The requirements vary according to the business being carried on. So far as the Watford Public Market was concerned, food traders were required to provide covers and screens for their stalls. The fish and meat stalls were already provided with sinks with hot water, and the Council provided additional sinks and wash hand basins for the use of the other food traders. The Council formally exempted the market traders from providing their own sinks and wash hand basins.

The proprietor of a restaurant who had not heeded the advice given to him during successive visits by Public Health Inspectors was charged with fourteen offences under the Food Hygiene Regulations and was convicted and fined £2 for each offence (see Table XI).

7. FOOD INSPECTION

(a) Meat

Meat Inspection was carried on satisfactorily through the year.

In 1966 the Council had reached agreement with the owners of the slaughterhouse in regard to hours of slaughtering. On four occasions during 1967 these hours were exceeded. Two of these occasions were on Saturday afternoon and on one occasion killing took place on Sunday. The reason in each case was that calves were brought from Kilmarnock in Scotland to Watford for slaughter and delays en route prevented their arriving within the expected time. The Council was prepared to make an order under the Meat Inspection Regulations fixing the hours of slaughter, but the matter was eventually resolved when the Town Clerk wrote to the person actually responsible for the calves and to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in regard to their being carried over these long distances. Calves are no longer brought from Scotland to Watford for slaughter and there has since been no slaughtering outside the agreed hours.

The Council continued to charge for meat inspection at the maximum rate but were able to make a refund to the slaughtering company of £510 in respect of the year ended March, 1967. This sum was the difference between the fees charged in that period and the actual cost of the meat inspection service.

The slaughterhouse manager has continued to permit students of meat inspection to gain practical experience in the abattoir. Such facilities are very limited and local authorities over a wide area are indebted to him for the opportunity for their staff to receive the required training.

Slaughter of Animals Act

Twenty-four licences to slaughter all classes of animals except horses were issued. In addition four licences were issued enabling the holders to slaughter animals under the supervision of an experienced slaughterman. The Council agreed to issue a licence to a Mohammedan to slaughter animals by Mohammedan method. The licence required him to stun the animals before slaughter - which he was willing to do.

(b) Milk

Five samples of milk taken from automatic vending machines serviced by a local dairy failed the methylene blue test. One case was due to failure in refrigeration and the others to improper rotation of the stock in the machine.

Two complaints of milk sold in dirty bottles were reported to the Council. Warning letters were sent in each case.

(c) Unsound food

Seventy-nine complaints were received of food sold in an unsatisfactory condition. Thirty-eight complaints referred to foreign bodies, including maggots in sausages, bacon, prunes, frozen rissoles and sweets; wasps in three bakery products and in marmalade; cigarette ends in cake, minced beef and pickle and bristles, grease, glass, string hair, rubber, metal, plastics and dirt in a variety of foodstuffs. Staleness, mould growth or decomposition accounted for two dozen reports.

Unusual conditions were - a taint in bananas associated with their forced ripening in ethylene gas; concentrated vinegar placed in error on a counter and added to fish and chips; adventitious addition of dye to sausage rolls and to a joint of pork and turpentine spilled onto ice-cream which was subsequently sold. "Elastic" in a fish finger proved to be a fish membrane and a "cancerous growth" in a frozen "chicken" consisted of rudimentary eggs; the bird was a hen sold for boiling.

The Public Health Committee authorised legal proceedings (Table XI) in twelve of the cases reported to them and instructed warning letters to be sent in nine cases. The Committee re-affirmed that their policy is to deal informally with complaints whenever the complainant is unwilling to give evidence in Court; this is because they wish to encourage the co-operation of the public in reporting the sale of unfit foods to the Health Department. They also authorised the Town Clerk, where in proceedings a defendant pleaded a warranty defence under Section 115 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, to proceed against the Warrantor, where appropriate, without further reference to the Committee.

8. FOOD POISONING

Ten cases of food poisoning were notified; three of these were in one family. Careful investigations failed to establish any common link in the remaining seven sporadic cases. Five taken ill on returning from Mediterranean countries were each infected by a different organism.

A tabular statement of the notified cases is set out in Table XII of the appendix.

Once again I am pleased to record our indebtedness to the staff of the Public Health Laboratory, Watford for the help and advice they have so readily given.

9. COMPOSITION OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The report of the Public Analyst, Mr. J.D. Curzon, on the samples submitted for examination during the year 1967 is summarised as follows :-

Formal samples: 7

Informal samples: 155

(i) Routine Samples

(a) Foods

Milk and milk products
Meat and fish products
Ice-cream, beverages and sweets
Flour and cereal foods
Vegetables, fruit and preserves
Condiments and spices.

(b) Drugs

Twenty-six assorted drug samples were taken.

Informal food samples included a buttermilk loaf which did not contain any skimmed milk powder; meat pies and Cornish pasties which were deficient of the recommended minimum meat content; macaroons which did not contain any almond and processed Cheddar cheese which was deficient of $12\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the minimum amount of butter fat prescribed. The various manufacturers were advised of these results.

Childrens' sweets were found to contain an excessive amount of zinc. The manufacturer concerned was successfully prosecuted. (Table XI).

Two samples of Powidel were deficient of the amount of soluble solids required by the Food Standards (Preserves) Order. The importers' statement that the product is a pie-filling and not jam, was accepted.

All the other routine food samples were satisfactory and the samples of drugs complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia where applicable.

(ii) Special Samples

A sample of roast pork was coloured pink, due to dye used by the butcher in the manufacture of his sausages.

Canned orange juice was found to have excessive amounts of iron and tin imparting a bitter taste, but insufficient to account for the violent stomach pains attributed to its consumption.

A Hovis loaf contained scrapings from baking tins.

A pork pie contained a small piece of galvanised iron.

Mineral foreign matter was found in a sausage.

Bananas had an unusual taste, thought to be connected with forced ripening using ethylene.

Small pieces of plastic with jagged edges were sold with "broken" chocolate.

Suspected foreign matter from fish fingers was found to be a fish membrane.

Corned beef which was very old stock was stained with iron sulphide.

(iii) Pesticide Residues

The Council participated in a scheme proposed by the Association of Public Analysts and supported by Food and Drugs Authorities, for a systematic scheme of sampling for the detection of pesticide residues in food.

Five out of thirty samples which showed some biological activity had extremely small amounts of pesticide residues.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

10. INDUSTRIAL

Most of the boiler plants in Watford are modern oil burning installations. Only five excessive smoke emissions were recorded during the year.

Prior approval of New Furnaces

Whenever there is a proposal to install new boiler plant, the developer is advised to take advantage of the prior approval provisions of the Act. The granting of prior approval is subject to satisfactory chimney height and design whether or not Section 10 of the Clean Air Act applies to the premises. Nine applications were granted.

Height of Chimneys

Plans were submitted to the Borough Engineer for the erection of ten chimneys. It was necessary to require alterations to the dimensions of eight of these. Four of the plans referred to premises exempted from the requirements of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

11. SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

The Council's smoke control programme became one of the casualties at the annual pruning of rate estimates. Work on the Cassiobury Smoke Control Area proceeded and the Order (No. 5) came into operation on 1st October.

The recommendation of the Public Health Committee that priority be given to the establishment of Housing Improvement Areas as smoke control areas was accepted by the Council. Although it was necessary to ask the Minister to defer the confirmation of the Callowland No. 7 Order until April, 1968, the Council made the Acme No. 8 Order with a view to housing improvement and firegrate adaptations proceeding contemporaneously.

12. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RESEARCH

The Council co-operate with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution by maintaining in the Borough five volumetric gauges for the daily recording of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

The gauges are situated in an industrial area; the commercial centre of the town; the Meriden Smoke Control Area and residential districts of high and low population densities.

The domestic and industrial consumption of coal in Watford and the natural ventilation of the town are all classified as of medium level by the Atmospheric Pollution Division of the D.S.I.R.

The tables and graphs in Appendix XVII show the average monthly recordings.

MISCELLANEOUS

13. FACTORIES

There is close co-operation with the Borough Engineer on all plans of new factories or alterations to existing premises which are submitted to the Council for approval. This procedure ensures that the premises will comply with the various legislative requirements before structural work commences.

The items which have concerned the Health Department during the year are the layout and equipment of works canteens, sanitary accommodation, the prior approval of boiler plant, height of chimneys and the prevention of atmospheric pollution and other nuisances and the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1959

Certain health provisions of the Act are enforced by the Council; a summary of the work carried out during 1963 will be found in tabular form in the Appendix (Table XV(i)).

Part IV - Special Provisions - Section 54 - Underground Bakehouse

There is only one underground bakehouse in Watford, at 24 Langley Road, and the Council have renewed the certificate of suitability.

Part VIII - Section 110 - Homework

The nature of the work undertaken by outworkers within the Borough is set out in Table XV(II).

14. SHOPS ACT 1950

The Public Health Inspectors are also employed as Shops Act Inspectors. In my annual report last year, I said "this is difficult legislation to enforce as so many confusing judgments have been given on what constitutes illegal trading on Sundays". The position may have been clarified but enforcement was certainly made more difficult by the judgment of the Divisional Court of the Queens Bench Division (June 1967) when Monaco Garages Limited appealed against conviction by the Watford Magistrates for keeping open a shop for the serving of customers (in respect of the sale of a car) on a Sunday. Finding for the appellant Sachs L.J. said that the premises were lawfully open for the sale of petrol, oil and car accessories but that evidence of more than one transaction in the sale of cars must be produced to satisfy their Lordships that the premises were open for this purpose. This judgment applies to all shops that encompass "mixed" trades where some goods may lawfully be sold on a Sunday.

15. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

1. Registration and Inspection

The number of premises in Watford newly registered during the year and on the register at 31st December 1967 with the numbers of persons employed therein are as follows :-

	<u>Number of premises newly registered during the year</u>	<u>Registered premises</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	29	381	6,793
Retail Shops	22	633	4,928
Wholesale shops and Warehouses	4	38	385
Catering Establishments and Canteens	6	61	808
Fuel Storage Depots	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
	<u>61</u>	<u>1,114</u>	<u>12,920</u>
5,983 males and 6,937 females)			

In considering the above figures it must be borne in mind that many persons are employed in the above classes of business which are not registered by the Local Authority, namely :-

1. Businesses in which only the employer's relatives work;
2. Businesses in which employees work less than 21 hours per week; and
3. Businesses which are registered by the Factory Inspector, e. g.
offices in factories, Local Authority and Government buildings,
certain railway premises, etc.

All registered premises in Watford have received a general inspection. , The necessity for inspection is accepted by occupiers and there has been a general willingness to comply with the informal notifications of infringements of the Act.

During the year 295 general inspections of registered premises were made by the Public Health Inspectors and 313 other visits and inspections.

2. Accidents

Thirty-three accidents were reported. Two-thirds of these were reported by five large stores in the town. In all probability there were many other accidents that were not reported.

(See Table XIV for Analysis of causes of accidents)

3. Prosecutions

An inspection of a shop revealed several contraventions of the Act.

On a further inspection it was found that some of the contraventions had been remedied but that the following items were still outstanding :-

- (a) Lack of hand-rail to staircase from ground to first floor;
- (b) Lack of running hot and cold water or warm water;
- (c) Failure to maintain washing facilities (broken wash-hand basin).

Proceedings were taken against the proprietors of the shop (who pleaded guilty) and fines totalling £80 plus six guineas costs were imposed by Watford Magistrates.

16. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 & 1936

The Chief Public Health Inspector is appointed by the Council as authorised officer for the purposes of these Acts.

155 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit and petroleum mixtures and one railway depot for the storage of carbide of calcium. 357 inspections were made during the year. One person was prosecuted for keeping petroleum mixtures on unlicensed premises and was fined £20.

The Council amended the conditions imposed on petrol licences to permit the use of "latched nozzles" on pumps at filling stations.

A complaint of petrol fumes in a water stopcock chamber at a factory was found to be coal gas from a defective underground gas main. Another complaint of gas fumes in the rear room of a shop with three petrol filling stations in the near vicinity was traced to a leakage of petrol from a 500 gallon tank at one of them. This leak had developed since a routine test on the tank nearly two years earlier. The petrol was undoubtedly carried under the adjoining properties on the surface of the sub-soil water table which is very high in this area.

17. NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Most of the noise in Watford is caused by road and air traffic and there can be no doubt that there is a considerable increase in this noise every year. But, it is the noise from factory and industrial processes that appears to be most offensive to the public - particularly when the noise occurs during the night. Investigations have been made at five factories during the year where noise emissions were causing a nuisance. It was not necessary to take statutory proceedings in any of the cases.

18. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

The Council continue to provide a free service for the destruction of rats and mice on domestic premises. Rodents on commercial and industrial premises and wasps nests on occupied premises are dealt with on payment of a fee which for wasps nests is 10/-.

A commercial undertaking laid "1081" (Sodium Fluoroacetamide) poison baits in those sewers which have been found in the past to be rat-infested. Test-baiting carried out a month later showed that the treatment had been completely successful.

Table XVI sets out details of rat and mice infestations treated during the year. 145 wasps nests were destroyed.

APPENDIX

TABLES I - XVII

APPENDIX

RECORDS OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1967

TABLE I

<u>Houses</u>		
Public Health Act (disrepair)	.....	336
Housing Act	.....	831
Overcrowding	.....	277
Improvement Grants	.....	341
Movable dwellings	.....	123
<u>Places of Work</u>		
Power Factories	...	92
Non-power factories	.....	7
Building Sites, etc.	.....	19
Outworkers	.....	2
Shop Act, 1950	.....	146
<u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963</u>		
(a) General Inspections :		
Offices	.....	88
Retail Shops	.....	187
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	.....	11
Catering establishments and Canteens	.....	8
Fuel Storage Depots	.....	1
(b) Other Inspection visits	.....	313
<u>Food</u>		
Food inspection	.....	200
Slaughterhouses	.....	541
Food factories	.....	31
Dairies	.....	16
Ice-cream premises	.....	63
Restaurants, canteens, public houses	.....	282
Retail food shops	.....	330
Public Market	.....	65
Mobile shops, stalls	.....	130
Other food premises	.....	33
Food (adulteration) samples	.....	154
Food (bacteriological) samples	.....	71

<u>Air</u>		
D.S.I.R. Instruments	.....	174
Industrial smoke control	.....	238
Smoke control areas	.....	1,325
<u>Public Health Act</u>		
Drainage	.....	640
Refuse	.....	121
Insect pests	.....	62
Conveniences	.....	25
Nuisances	.....	619
Infectious diseases	.....	128
Schools	.....	21
Swimming pools	.....	7
<u>Other Acts</u>		
Consumer Protection Act	.....	21
Home Counties (music and dancing) Act	.....	10
Pests Act	.....	113
Pet Animals Act	.....	19
Petroleum Acts	.....	367
Rag Flock etc. Act	.....	5
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Interviews	.....	254
Attendance at Court	.....	9
Lectures	.....	9
Unclassified visits	.....	143
Water samples	.....	42
		<hr/>
		9,050
		<hr/>

HOUSING

TABLE II

(a)	Number of new dwellings erected by the Council during 1967	324
(b)	Number of new dwellings erected by private enterprise during 1967	107
(c)	Total number of dwellings built by Council since 1945	4,993
(d)	Total number of dwellings built by private enterprise since 1945	2,966
(e)	Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December, 1967	6,513

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND OTHER UNFIT HOUSES

TABLE III

	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
<u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>HOUSES DEMOLISHED NOT IN CLEARANCE AREAS</u>			
As a result of formal procedure under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	2	4	2
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED</u>			
Under Section 17(1) of the Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil

	By Owner	By Local Authority
<u>UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED</u>		
After informal action by Local Authority	40	Nil
After formal Notice under :		
(a) Public Health Acts	11	Nil
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act 1957	10	2

COMPULSORY IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS TO PROVIDE
STANDARD AMENITIES

TABLE IV

		1965/66	1967
1. Area	Areas declared	3	1
Improvement	Containing: total dwellings	504	431
	Improvable dwellings (owner/occupier and tenanted)	354	184
	Tenanted improvable dwellings	195	65
	Preliminary notices served proposing improvement to :		
	full standard	191	62
	reduced standard	Nil	Nil
	Undertakings given	10	Nil
	Improvement Notices served: Immediate	47	40
	Suspended	74	17
	Final	9	5
	Appeals under Section 27	Nil	Nil
	Notices withdrawn: Immediate	3	5
	Suspended	Nil	Nil
	Final	1	Nil
	Improvement works completed	3	3
1. Improvement of dwellings outside Improvement Areas	Preliminary Notices served: full standard	6	4
	reduced standard	Nil	Nil
	Undertakings given	Nil	1
	Improvement Notices served	2	3
	Appeals against Improvement Notices	Nil	Nil
	Improvement Notices withdrawn	Nil	1
	Improvement Works completed	Nil	Nil
3. Improvement of dwellings in tenement blocks	Nil		
4. Enforcement	Nil		
5. Purchase	Nil		

F O O D

Types of Food premises within the Borough at 1st January 1967.

TABLE V

Retail Food Shops	...	390
Hotels and Public Houses	...	56
Cafes and Restaurants	...	65
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	73
School Canteens	...	34
Clubs	...	14
Bakehouses	...	11
Wholesale Food Merchants	...	16
Food Factories	...	8
Public Market	...	1
Slaughterhouse	...	1
Dairy	...	1

All these premises comply with Regulation 16 and 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, where applicable.

Food Premises Registered by the Council

1. Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act 1955

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	3
Ice Cream Dealers	...	182
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	49

2. Article 8 of the Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations 1959

Dairies	...	1
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Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963/65

The Council has granted one dealer's licence to pasteurise milk and one dealer's licence to sterilise milk at a dairy. Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were held as follows :-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licences
Untreated Milk	13
Pasteurised Milk	52
Sterilised Milk	33
Ultra Heat Treated Milk	24

All licence holders are registered as milk distributors. One distributor is registered solely for the sale of cream.

MEAT AND OFFAL REJECTED AT THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AS
UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION DURING 1967

TABLE VI

		<u>lbs.</u>
Beef (including 13 carcasses)	...	6,719
Lamb (including 16 carcasses)	...	684
Pork (including 324 carcasses)	...	31,160
Veal (including 366 carcasses)	...	13,363
<u>Offal from bovines</u>		
280 heads	...	6,150
206 tongues	...	960
1,592 lungs	...	17,740
224 hearts	...	1,195
4,463 livers and 800 part livers	...	70,945
128 spleens	...	256
164 skirts	...	328
6 tails	...	12
<u>Offal from pigs</u>		
9,291 plucks	...	46,455
7,504 livers	...	15,008
28,028 lungs (including hearts)	...	56,056
701 heads	8,083	
<u>Offal from sheep</u>		
344 plucks	...	1,376
1,747 livers	...	3,494
1,436 lungs	...	2,872
4 other organs	...	4
<u>Offal from calves</u>		
357 plucks	...	1,428
311 other organs	...	311

Total weight rejected as unfit for human consumption: 126 tons 3 cwts.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN WATFORD DURING 1967

TABLE VII

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	10,487	2,525	29,670	18,579	81,624
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	10	364	15	255
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5,326	1,021	215	3,746	45,299
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	50.7	40.4	1.9	20.3	55.8
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	-	227
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.13	-	-	-	0.27
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcasses in which cystercosis was found	138	11	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	138	11	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	136	9	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

LOCATION AND NATURE OF CYSTICERCUS BOVIS INFECTIONS

TABLE VIII

138 cases of cysticercus bovis were discovered in the 13,012 cattle slaughtered in Watford. This gives an incidence rate of 1.07%. The location of the cysts are as follows :-

	Head	Heart	Skirt
Viable cysts	22	3	1
Degenerate cysts	40	75	5

The cysts in 26 cases (18.7%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF MILK - TABLE IX

Pasteurised	31	Sterilised	3
Five samples failed the methylene blue test			

ICE CREAM SAMPLES - TABLE X

Bacteriological Samples

Satisfactory	Grades 1 and 2	39
Unsatisfactory	Grades 3 and 4	6
87% of the samples were satisfactory		

Chemical Samples

The statutory minimum content for ice-cream is 5 per cent fat. Artificial sweeteners are prohibited.

Sample Number	Fat Content	Milk Solids
1	12.0	10.9
2	12.0	10.6
3	8.5	8.5
4	12.0	11.5
5	7.5	11.0
6	9.0	10.9

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 - TABLE XI

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT OF THE PREPARATION OR SALE OF FOOD

No.	Section	Alleged Offence	Result	Fines	Costs payable by Defendant	Remarks
1	2	Sale of sweets containing excess of zinc.	Conviction	£50	£. s. d. 6. 6. 0	
2	2	Sale of minced beef containing cigarette end.	"	£20	6. 6. 0	Retailers (who were acquitted) cross-summoned their Manager.
3	2	Sale of mouldy puff pastry	"	£25		
4	2	Sale of sausages containing maggots	"	£30		
5	2	Sale of mouldy Yoghurt	"	£25	6. 6. 0	
6	2	Sale of mouldy apple turnover	"	£25	6. 6. 0	
7	2	Sale of mouldy pork pie	"	£25		
8	2	Sale of mouldy bread	"	£25	6. 6. 0	
9	2	Sale of mouldy sausages	"	£20		
10	2	Sale of mouldy cottage cheese	"	£25	6. 6. 0	
11	2	Sale of mouldy scotch eggs	"	£25	6. 6. 0	
12	2	Sale of mouldy "Party Pork Pie"	"	£25	6. 6. 0	
13	13	Cafe - 14 offences against Food Hygiene (General) Regulations	"	£28	6. 6. 0	

FOOD POISONING

TABLE XII

	No.	Number of cases		Organism Responsible	Food Suspected
		Notified	Otherwise Ascertained		
Family outbreaks	1	3	Nil	Salmonella Typhi-murium	Unknown
Single cases	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Braenderup	Unknown
	2	2	Nil	Salmonella Typhi-murium	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Stanleyville	Unknown
	1	1	Nil	Salmonella Bredeney	Unknown
	2	2	Nil	Salmonella Enteritidis	Unknown

OFFICE, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

TABLE XIII

Infringements of Act in 295 premises inspected during 1967

Uncleanly condition of premises or furnishings	4
Inadequate provision for maintaining reasonable temperature	3
Inadequate light or ventilation	7
Insufficient sanitary conveniences or washing facilities	5
Unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences or washing facilities	7
Inadequate hot water, clean towels, etc. for hand washing	10
Inadequate supply of drinking water	1
Inadequate provision for accommodating clothing	3
Defective condition of floors or stairs	6
Inadequate fencing of dangerous parts of machinery	6
Suitable or sufficient sitting facilities not provided	1
Inadequate first aid equipment	15
Failure to display prescribed abstract of the Act	21
Other matters	9
	<hr/>
	98

TABLE XIV

Analysis of Causes of Accidents notified during 1967

Falls of persons	12
Stepping on or striking against object or person	7
Handling goods	3
Struck by falling object	2
Use of Hand tools	3
Not otherwise specified	6
	<hr/>
	33

TABLE XV(i)

	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authorities	27	7	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	367	66	3	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	18	-	-
TOTAL	426	91	3	-

In 3 cases unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were found
in premises where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 & 134)

TABLE XV(ii)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list notified to Local Authority
Wearing apparel (Making, alteration, etc.)	13
Textile weaving	3
Brush Making	1
Carding of buttons, belts, etc.	19
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.	2
The making of boxes or receptacles from paper	33
TOTAL	59
There were no cases of default in sending lists of outworkers as required by Section 133 (i)(c)	

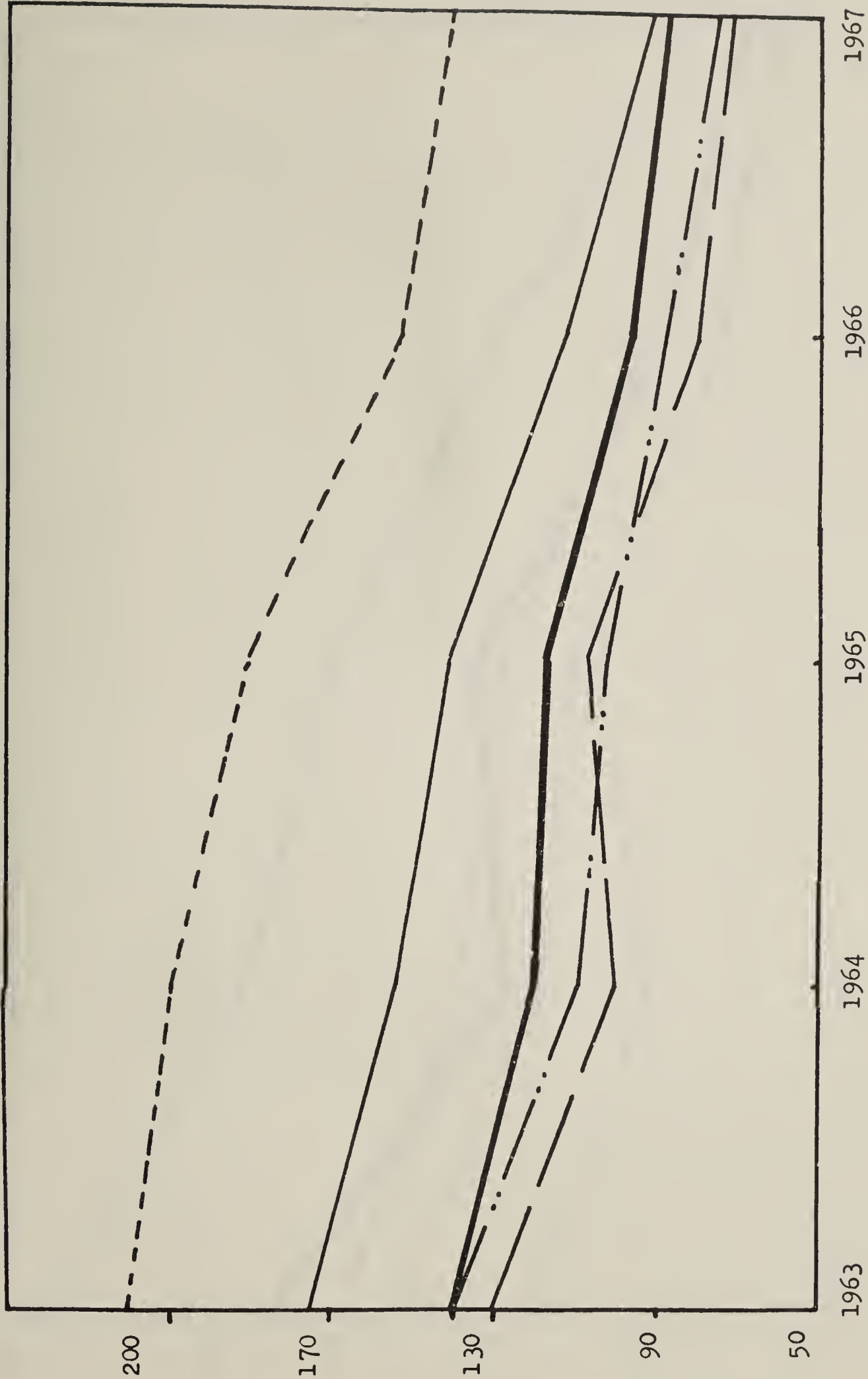
PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

TABLE XVI

1.	Number of properties in district	30,000
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	1,205
	(b) Number infested by :-	
	(i) Rats	510
	(ii) Mice	50
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	6
	(b) Number infested by :-	
	(i) Rats	4
	(ii) Mice	2

Graph Ref.
Site No. 2
3
4
5
6

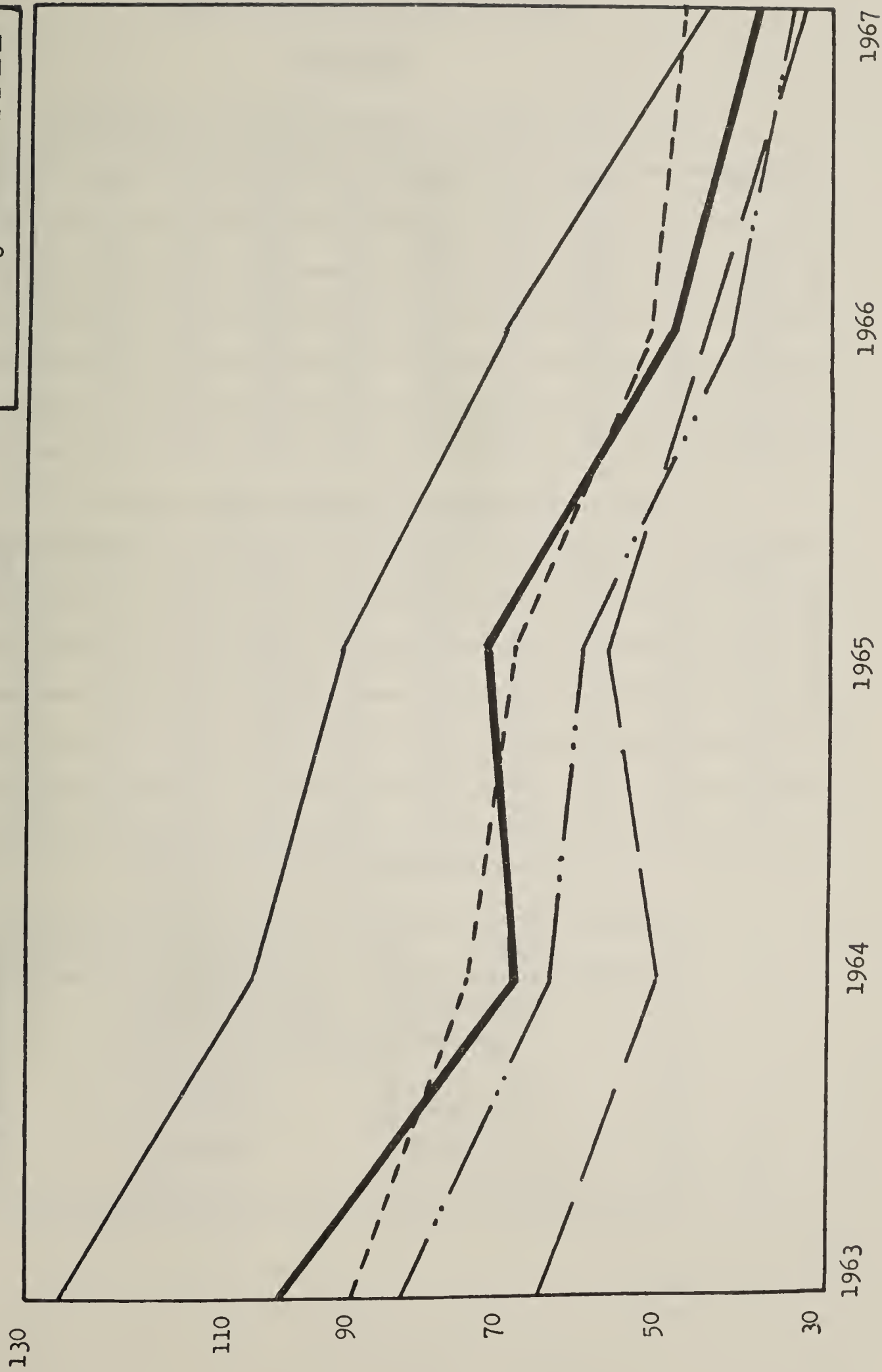
SULPHUR DIOXIDE
Average Yearly Concentration
micrograms cu, meter.



SMOKE.

Average Yearly Concentration
micrograms cu.meter.

Graph. Ref.	Site No.	Ref.
—	2	—
—	3	—
—	4	—
—	5	—
—	6	—



THE INVESTIGATION OF AIR POLLUTION

TABLE XVII

Sulphur dioxide - Yearly concentration (micrograms per cu. meter)

Year ending in March	Site No. 2	Site No. 3	Site No. 4	Site No. 5	Site No. 6
1963	120	165	130	130*	210
1964	101*	144*	111*	123*	200*
1965	107	133	105	121*	183
1966	81	114	90*	99	144
1967	73	93	75	89	131

Smoke - Yearly concentration (micrograms per cu. meter)

Year ending in March	Site No. 2	Site No. 3	Site No. 4	Site No. 5	Site No. 6
1963	67	126	83	98*	89
1964	52	102	66	69	75
1965	58	91	62	73	70
1966	46	71	43*	50	53
1967	33	46	35	40	48

All results marked * are approximate averages.

Site No.	Type of area	Location
2	Smoke control Area	Meriden Estate
3	High density Residential	Judge Street
4	Low density Residential	Langley Road
5	Commercial	High Street
6	Industrial	Lower High Street



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